



THE CURRENT

Weekly News & Events for
the Town of Oak Island, NC

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Week of

June 17, 2024

WELCOME to *THE CURRENT*, the weekly digital newsletter for the Town of Oak Island, NC.

June is flying by and Summer has settled in. The only thing rising faster than the temperature is our anticipation for the Town's upcoming **25th Anniversary Celebration!** Now less than two weeks away, this edition is full of information needed to make your **Beach Day** experience the best yet; including **Closure Notices**, **Events Schedules**, and **Post-Fireworks Traffic Plans**.

But before you start getting ready for next month, remember there's still plenty to discuss for the week ahead. So rub in your best sunscreen, as we wade out into week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Town Council**
- **Planning Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Meeting Preview**
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SAFETY BRIEF

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Fitness Class Cancellations**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Chop With A Cop**
- **Beach Day Schedule**

A photograph of a town council meeting room. The room features a curved wooden desk with several chairs. In the background, there is a large seal on the wall and a flag. The text "MEETINGS & CLOSURES" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

TOWN COUNCIL will hold its regular meeting (broadcast) on **Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

PLANNING BOARD will hold its next meeting (broadcast) on **Thursday, June 20 at 9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers.

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the **Meetings Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

BEACH DAY: Administrative Offices will **CLOSE EARLY** at **2:30 PM** on **Monday, July 1, 2024** in observance of Beach Day.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** all day on **Thursday, July 4** in observance of **Independence Day**.

- **Garbage & Recycling Collection** will run on the **normal schedule**, **HOWEVER** service during the entire month of July experiences delayed pickup times **due to the increased volume**.
- The **Disposal Convenience Site** will be **CLOSED** on Friday & Saturday, July 5 & 6.
- **Fire, Police**, and all **Emergency Services** will be available, as always by calling **9-1-1**.

To view all holiday closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



NEWS & NOTICES

Town Council Meeting Preview

The Oak Island Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, starting at **6:00 PM**. Note that for this month only, the regular meeting date has been changed from the second Tuesday, to the third Tuesday of the month.

The **Meeting Agenda** contains:

- 1 Public Hearing
- 2 Presentations
- Appointments to the Environmental Advisory Committee
- 4 Items of Old Business
- 6 Items of New Business
- Closed Session

Sign-up sheets for commenting during the public hearing and/or the general comment period will be available in the back of the meeting room prior to the meeting. Speakers will have three (3) minutes.

For more information or to view the entire **Agenda Packet**, just visit the **Meetings Information** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS** or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

NEW Beach Warning Lights

This past week crews with the Public Works Department completed installation of four (4) NEW **Beach Warning Light** signs. These new signs feature a fully automated wireless control system, which retrieves updates from the **National Weather Service**, and then display the current Beach Warning condition on the built-in signal light. This new notification system will greatly enhance the safety and visibility provided by the robust **Beach Warning Flag** system already in p'

With this installation, Oak Island has become the *first town in the Carolinas* to utilize this system.



The signage was developed by **SwimSmart Warning Systems** out of Marquette, Michigan who has designed and installed similar systems throughout the nation. The signs are completely self-contained, utilizing solar options for power and onboard data receivers for information.

Town Manager David Kelly first began discussions with SwimSmart last year, who immediately started work on designing a system for Oak Island. The Town's signs are unique, as they are also the first of their kind to incorporate a PURPLE light, to indicate the risk of "stinging marine life" such as jellyfish or Man O' War.

The four units have been installed near the more heavily populated **Beach Access Locations** at:

- Barbee Boulevard (near the Oak Island Pier)
- Oak Island Cabana (Middleton Park Complex)
- 3rd Place East (near S Middleton Ave.)
- The Point (end of W Beach Dr.)

Their effectiveness and durability will be evaluated during the 2024 Summer Season, to determine any possible expansion or adapting of the program in the future. While the lighted signs provide beachgoers with conditions at a quick glance, it is still recommended to check the ***Beach Safety*** page of the Town Website for full forecast and safety information.

To view the Beach Safety page, simply scan the QR code found on any of the [Water Safety Stations](#) or visit OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Handicapped Beach Parking Completed

Last week, the Town's latest effort to improve beach accessibility for all was officially opened -- the **Cabana Drop Off & Handicapped Parking Lot**. As the name suggests, the project provides new beach accessibility and parking features directly beside the famous **Oak Island Cabana** at **4601 E Beach Drive**.



To the west of the Cabana, a new driveway with roundabout "drop off" is available, to allow for the beachside unloading of passengers and equipment. On the east side, a brand new handicapped-only parking lot has been paved, providing six (6) new spaces to accommodate beachside parking and unloading without having to cross E Beach Drive. Both the sides feature wider, smoother access paths over the dunes, with **Mobi-mats** installed to make for easier travel. These new additions were paid for using the same grant which funded the **Cabana Renovation** in 2023.

The new parking lot has been added to the map under the "Mobi-Mat & Handicap Parking" tab on the **Beach Access Information** page of the Town Website. To view the page, simply visit OakIslandNC.gov/ACCESS or click the link below..

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REMINDER: Free Voter ID Event

As first reported in [last week's edition](#), on **Wednesday, June 26**, from **10:00 AM - 1:00 PM** the Brunswick County Board of Elections will be holding a **FREE Voter ID Event** at the **G.V. Barbee, Sr. Library**, located at 8200 E. Oak Island Drive.

This is part of an ongoing series of **FREE Voter ID** events the Board of elections will be hosting throughout the summer. This countywide initiative aims to "*empower citizens by ensuring they have the necessary identification to exercise their right to vote.*"

To obtain a voter photo ID at one of these events, individuals must be registered voters and residents of Brunswick County. No ID is required, but a form will need to be completed that requires the voter's name, date of birth, and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

For a full list of all event dates and locations throughout the County, just visit the Board of Elections website at BrunswickNCVotes.gov or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



SAFETY BRIEF



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Post-Fireworks Traffic Plan

This week brings us less than 2 weeks away from [BEACH DAY](#), now celebrating the Town's 25th Anniversary!

As usual, the day will end in our biggest and best [FIREWORKS DISPLAY](#) from the OKI Pier - so please help us start spreading the word NOW about these important **Post-Firework Traffic Reminders**:

- **USE BOTH BRIDGES**: even if you are returning to our neighboring Southport, using the Swains Cut Bridge and double lanes of E.F. Middleton Blvd can actually make for a faster Island exit!

- 🚗 **STAY ON OAK ISLAND DRIVE:** trying to make "shortcuts" out of Beach Dr., Yacht Dr., or Ocean Dr. only slows everything down when you eventually have to merge back into traffic later.
- 🚫 **AVOID DISTRACTIONS:** keep traffic moving and pay attention to the road ahead! Let someone else handle posting all of those "amazing-and-totally-not-like-everyone-else's" fireworks pics.
- 💰 **PAID PARKING** will **NOT** be charged during this event
- 🚗 **ALL PARKING** is "first come, first served" - so no "reserving" or holding public spaces please!
- 🚧 **OCEAN DRIVE** will be **CLOSED** at **6:00 PM** from Barbee Blvd. to Keziah St.
- 🚓 **OFFICERS** will be at all intersections to help keep the flow of traffic moving, so please stay alert and follow their directions.

If we all pay attention, have a little patience, and use a little kindness, we can all get home in a safe & swift fashion! For more details on Beach Day, including the schedule of events, just visit the Beach Day page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/BeachDay or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Public Safety Camp Recap

Last week, we hosted our first ever **Public Safety Camp**, which replaced our previous **Junior Fire Academy** and had an expanded enrollment for up to 28 campers. For five (5) fun days, campers got to learn about the agencies, tools, and techniques used in the Town's public safety efforts, at locations including the Fire Stations, Police Department, and Water Rescue Station.

From learning about **physical fitness & hands-only CPR**, to **hose handling** and **Ocean Rescue**, almost every aspect of public safety covered. On the **final day**, campers got to use the skills they learned to compete against each other and *then their parents!* Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a delicious cookout and awards ceremony to celebrate the week.

In addition to funding from the **NC-OSFM Grant** we would also like to thank our 2024 Public Safety Camp Sponsors for their support! We would not be able to give our campers such a wonderful experience without them.

Be on the lookout for more information on sponsorship opportunities for next years Public Safety Camp in 2025! In the meantime, to view photos and descriptions from each day of camp this year, just check out our Facebook page at Facebook.com/OakIslandFire or click the OKI-FD patch below





COMING EVENTS

Fitness Classes CANCELLED

NOTICE: The following *Fitness Classes* classes at the Oak Island Recreation Center have been **CANCELLED** for the week ahead:

- **June 17:** Mature Aerobics with Debbie will be canceled June 17th
- **June 18 & 21:** SilverSneakers with Susan will be canceled June 18th and June 21st
- **June 19:** SilverSneakers with Mary Beth

For more information on these closures or any alternative program options, please contact the **Oak Island Recreation Department** at **910-278-5518**, through the [Department Contact Form](#), or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Summer Concert Series: *The Entertainers*

- **WHEN:** Friday, June 21, 2024 • 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive
- **COST:** FREE

This week, prepare to be entertained as we welcome back *The Entertainers*.

The Summer Concert Series is a FREE event, so bring a chair or blanket and enjoy great entertainment on the amphitheater lawn in the Middleton Park Complex. There will also be food trucks onsite in case you get a little hungry.

Concerts each week start at 6:30 PM. For more information and to view the *Live Band Lineup*, visit OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Chop With A Cop

The Oak Island Police Department & recreation Department are excited to announce the RETURN of **CHOP WITH A COP** as this wildly popular and unique event returns for its SECOND year in a row:

- **WHEN:** Tuesday, June 25, 2023 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- **WHERE:** 806 N Howe Street, Southport, NC
- **COST:** FREE!!!

“Calling all teens, let’s bury the hatchet!” This FREE program allows teens aged 13-18 to join officers from four different agencies in axe throwing competition. This event provides teens with one hour of practice and one hour of competitive throwing. Only 48 spaces available ... which agency will YOU HELP take home the Gold?

In partnership with the Southport Police Department, Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office, and the Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department; teams will be randomly assigned, however selected time slots will be honored.

For more information or to register, visit OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Beach Day

- **WHEN:** Monday, July 1, 2024 • 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

July is approaching fast, and that means the most important (*and busiest*) day of the year in Oak Island ... **BEACH DAY!** Beach Day commemorates the July 1, 1999 merger of the Towns of Yaupon Beach & Long Beach into what is today known as the Town of Oak Island. It is held each year on July 1. This year provides a particularly special note to Beach Day, as it is also the Town's **25th Anniversary**.

The Recreation Department now has the [Beach Day 2024 Events Schedule](#) published online!

To learn more about Beach Day including the history of the occasion and the events for this year, just visit the dedicated **Beach Day** page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/BeachDay or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

REMINDER: A full listing of all coming events can be found on the **Events & Programs** page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS.

Click on the event flyers below to download, print, and share!



Sunset On Summer



Chop With A Cop



Beach Day Events Schedule

THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this edition of *THE CURRENT*, and choosing to stay informed on the News & Events happening in Oak Island, NC.

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PAST EDITION ARCHIVE

DID YOU KNOW? *The CURRENT*, hasn't always been a weekly publication. Originally produced as an award-winning digital monthly newsletter, *The CURRENT* published 35 editions, spanning a period of three years from from December 2020 to 2023. As a monthly publication, *The CURRENT* provided longer form, "magazine style" reading, along with added commentary, and content contributed from community partners.

Past editions of both the weekly and monthly formats are available to view anytime, by clicking the tabs below.

MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2023)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)

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